

Work shift noise level information on 174 carpenters

From the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington

Category	Result
Average noise level during a full work shift	82.2 dBA
Average length of measured work shifts	8hrs 25 minutes
% of work shift with noise level average over 85 dBA	40%
% of work shift with noise level average over 90 dBA	13%
% of work shift with any noise level over 115 dBA	54%
Average % of time hearing protection used above 85 dBA	43%
Average % of time hearing protection used above 115 dBA	36%

Tasks/portions of each shift in which noise levels exceeded 85 dBA

Tasks	Avg. noise level	Max. noise level	% time hearing protection worn when needed
Operating work vehicle	80.1	102.4	0%
Break, rest, lunch, cleanup	87.8	106.4	28%
Shop work	88.8	108.2	27%
Interior finish	89.4	111.7	24%
Manual material handling	89.4	111.9	36%
Layout	90.5	109.5	14%
Wood framing	91.0	116.8	30%
Building forms	92.9	117.1	62%
Stripping forms	94.8	126.5	NA
Welding	94.9	122.8	NA
“Other” tasks	95.3	119.1	52%

Tools, in order of increasing average noise level

Tools	Avg. noise level	Max. noise level	% time hearing protection worn when needed
No tool	89.1	109.5	38%
Other hand power tool	90.1	113.0	11%
Powder actuated tool	90.7	112.9	100%
Stationary power tool	91.3	106.4	3%
Hammer, mallet, sledge	91.6	118.8	48%
Chopsaw	92.0	112.5	85%
Hand power saw	92.3	115.6	38%
Screw gun	92.5	112.9	48%
Welding, cutting equipment	94.9	122.8	NA
Rotohammer	95.1	119.6	53%